

March 27, 1979

LB 460

just hear it now and there is no reference made to any particular statute. It just merely says that....

SENATOR FOWLER: The bill already contains the section of statute.

SENATOR DUIS: I don't read anywhere what you are trying to read out.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker and members of the Unicameral, I guess I would like to ask a question of Senator Simon if he would yield. What are you really trying to do with this bill, lower the rates for the small consumer? Is this the idea?

SENATOR SIMON: What we are really trying to do, Senator Kahle, is to allow...the end result would be if the local utility company feels that way that they would have the ability to do that. I certainly am not opposed to that type of action but they tell us that they cannot do that. We want to eliminate any problem on their part and give them the flexibility to be able to act in any way that they want to on the local level to set those rates.

SENATOR KAHLE: What is to stop them from doing it now?

SENATOR SIMON: I think we just went through that about two minutes ago.

SENATOR KAHLE: Well you didn't quote the statute. I don't believe it told us that that is in there.

SENATOR SIMON: I can't be any more specific than I have been. I will try and say it one more time. At the public hearings the utilities said that they could not implement lifeline or any type of legislation like that, that their hands were tied. Therefore, LB 460 was introduced which is permissive in nature and would allow them to do that. I think that is a fairly specific answer to a fairly specific question.

SENATOR KAHLE: Well in my dealings in life I always find that if you are going to lower somebody you have to raise somebody else and if there is any Santa Claus in this deal I fail to see it. The other thing that bothers me, you talk about the small consumer and generally it costs the electric company more to supply or the gas company or any